

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application.

In response to the Amendment filed June 19, 2003, the Examiner has repeated the previous claim rejection. Thus, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously-cited Chernock et al. (US 6,229,524) in view of previously-cited Blonstein et al. (US 5,955,988).

Applicant seeks to cancel claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 by the present Amendment. The limitations of original claims 4 and 5 are incorporated into claim 3 herein.

Regarding the limitations of original claims 5 and 6, Applicant argued in the Amendment filed June 19, 2003 that the references do not teach or suggest the register or the output asynchronous plug register, as claimed in claims 5 and 6, respectively. In response, the Examiner asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would consider a RAM to be equivalent to a register. See Office Action, page 7. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and submits that claims 3 (which includes the limitations of original claim 5) and 6 are allowable, for at least the same reasons discussed in the June 19 Amendment. In particular, Applicant submits that the Examiner is interpreting RAM too broadly by citing an equivalence with a register with respect to a data storage location without randomness of access. As noted in the June 19 Amendment, the definitions of "register" and "RAM" differ. That is, RAM is defined as "a type of computer memory that can be accessed randomly; that is, any byte of memory can be accessed without touching the preceding bytes." See <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/R/RAM.html>. A register, on the other hand, is defined as "a special, high-speed storage area within the CPU."

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 09/840,455

See <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/r/register.html>. Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not necessarily consider a RAM to be equivalent to a register.

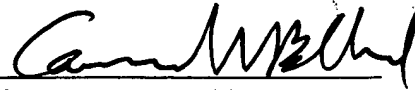
Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 6-11 are allowable over the prior art, at least because there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the references. The Examiner asserts that the motivation to combine the teachings of Blonstein et al. with the teachings of Chernock et al. is to provide the user with a simple interface to navigate a cursor among current hot spots. However, as described at col. 3, lines 38-45, Chernock et al. disclose jumping from one hot spot to another using a simple interface, such as a "tab" key on a remote control. Since Chernock et al. disclose this "simple interface," one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Chernock et al. to include the movement of the pointing device of Blonstein et al. In other words, there is no motivation to modify Chernock et al. to add a feature from Blonstein et al., which is already included in the disclosure of Chernock et al. Accordingly, claims 3 and 6-11 are allowable over the prior art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 09/840,455

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Cameron W. Beddard
Registration No. 46,545

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 24, 2003